

New Standards and Geographic Definitions for Metropolitan Statistical Areas

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Metropolitan Statistical Areas were first established more than 50 years ago and provide nationally consistent definitions for reporting federal statistics, including economic data. While the definition has changed over time, a Metropolitan Statistical Area generally includes a city with substantial population along with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) maintains and updates Metropolitan Statistical Area classifications following the completion of each decennial census. In December 2000, the OMB announced new standards for designating Metropolitan Statistical Areas, including new statistical areas called Micropolitan Areas. The 2000 standards were developed over the course of several years with public comment and review. In June 2003, the OMB announced the official list of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, based on population and worker commuting data reported in the 2000 Census.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Under the 2000 standards, Metropolitan Statistical Areas are defined as having a central county or counties with an urbanized area of at least 50,000 people, plus adjacent outlying counties having a high degree of economic integration with the central county, as measured through worker commuting ties. Multiple counties are included in a Metropolitan Statistical Area if at least 25 percent of employed residents in the central county commute to work in one or more adjacent counties. The largest city in the Metropolitan Statistical Area is listed first in the title and additional cities may be included in the name if they meet certain population and employment criteria.

The Metropolitan Statistical Areas including a population of 2.5 million or more were further subdivided into Metropolitan Divisions. For example, the interstate Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area was subdivided into three separate Metropolitan Divisions: Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL, Lake County-Kenosha, IL-WI and Gary, IN.

The application of the 2000 standards to Census 2000 data resulted in the designation of 49 new Metropolitan Statistical Areas, bringing the total number of areas in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to 370 (as of June 2003). In Illinois, there are 11 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, including the Illinois part of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area. The Chicago-Naperville-Joliet IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area has two Metropolitan Divisions that includes Illinois counties. The [table](#) and [map](#) below present the Metropolitan Statistical Area names and geographic definitions that were announced in June 2003.

Micropolitan Statistical Areas

The 2000 standards also provide for Micropolitan Statistical Areas. These are areas with a central county or counties and an urban cluster of 10,000-49,999 people, plus adjacent counties having a high degree of economic and social integration as measured through worker commuting. Multiple counties are included in a Micropolitan Area if at least 25 percent of employed residents in the central county commute to work in one or more adjacent counties. The naming convention for Micropolitan Areas is the same as for Metropolitan Areas, with the largest community presented first. As of June 2003, there were a total of 565 Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. In Illinois, there were 23 Micropolitan Statistical Areas, including four shared with border states. The table above shows the names and geographic definitions of Illinois Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Labor Force and Non-farm Employment Data for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program will publish monthly labor force estimates for 2000-based Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, beginning in March 2005, with the release of January 2005 data. The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program will publish non-farm industry employment estimates for 2000-based Metropolitan Statistical Areas beginning in March 2005, with the release of January 2005 data. Historical monthly and annual labor force and non-farm jobs data under the 2000-based geographic definitions will be available back to 1990.

You can find more information on Metropolitan Statistical Area standards and definitions as well as maps at: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm> and <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>.

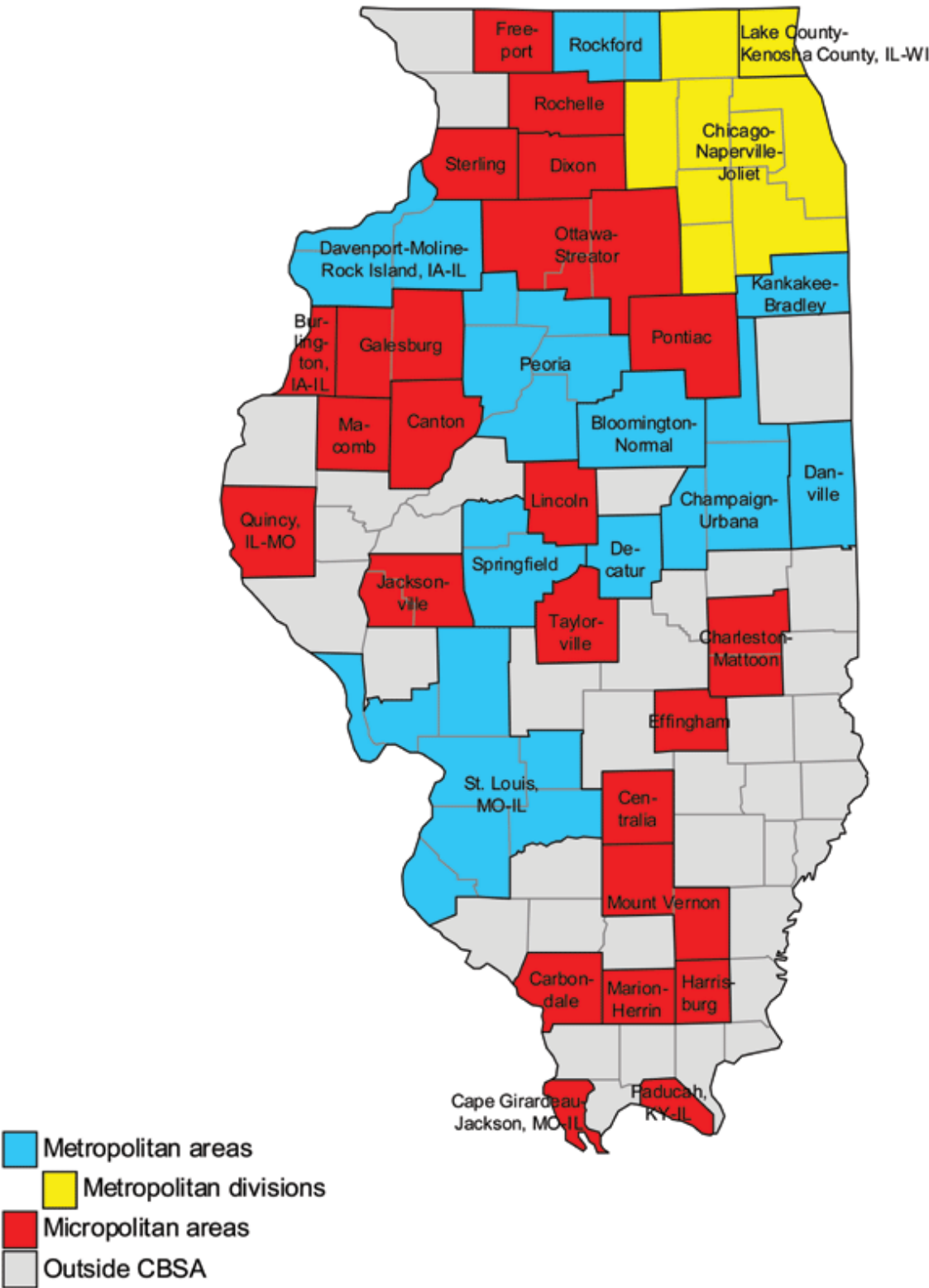
**2000 Census-based Illinois Metropolitan Statistical Areas
and Metropolitan Divisions**

Name	Counties
Bloomington-Normal MSA	McLean
Champaign-Urbana MSA	Champaign Ford Piatt
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL Metropolitan Division	Cook DeKalb DuPage Grundy Kane Kendall McHenry Will
Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI Metropolitan Division	Lake Kenosha, Wisconsin
Danville, IL MSA	Vermilion
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL MSA	Henry Mercer Rock Island Scott, Iowa
Decatur, IL MSA	Macon
Kankakee-Bradley, IL MSA	Kankakee
Peoria, IL MSA	Peoria Marshall Peoria Stark Tazewell Woodford
Rockford, IL MSA	Boone Winnebago
Springfield, IL MSA	Menard Sangamon
St. Louis MO-IL MSA (Illinois part)	Bond Calhoun Clinton Jersey Macoupin Madison Monroe St. Clair

2000 Census-based Illinois Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Name	Counties
Burlington IA-IL Micropolitan Area	Henderson Des Moines, Iowa
Canton, IL Micropolitan Area	Fulton
Cape Girardeau-Jackson, MO-IL Micropolitan Area	Alexander Bollinger, Missouri Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Carbondale, IL Micropolitan Area	Jackson
Centralia, IL Micropolitan Area	Marion
Charleston-Mattoon Micropolitan Area	Coles Cumberland
Dixon, IL Micropolitan Area	Lee
Effingham, IL Micropolitan Area	Effingham
Freeport, IL Micropolitan Area	Stephenson
Galesburg, IL Micropolitan Area	Knox Warren
Harrisburg, IL Micropolitan Area	Saline
Jacksonville, IL Micropolitan Area	Morgan Scott
Lincoln, IL Micropolitan Area	Logan
Macomb, IL Micropolitan Area	McDonough
Marion-Herrin, IL Micropolitan Area	Williamson
Mount Vernon, IL Micropolitan Area	Hamilton Jefferson
Ottawa-Streator, IL Micropolitan Area	Bureau LaSalle Putnam
Paducah, KY-IL Micropolitan Area	Massac Ballard, Kentucky Livingston, Kentucky McCracken, Kentucky
Pontiac, IL Micropolitan Area	Livingston
Quincy, IL-MO Micropolitan Area	Adams Lewis, Missouri
Rochelle, IL Micropolitan Area	Ogle
Sterling, IL Micropolitan Area	Whiteside
Taylorville, IL Micropolitan Area	Christian

2000-based metropolitan and micropolitan areas in Illinois



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